Safety of Rail Passengers

†2987. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Government's schemes to ensure the safety of rail passengers;

(b) whether it is a fact that incidents of dacoities in night-trains have increased and passengers are feeling insecure; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to augment patrolling in trains particularly at night and to make the train journey safe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) To provide better security to the travelling passengers in trains and passenger areas, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) Act, 1957 and the Railways Act, 1989 have been amended to enable the Railways, through the RPF, to effectively supplement the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways. The Railway Protection Force staff are being deployed to escort many trains, and in the passenger area to augment the efforts of the State Governments. RPF has also been empowered to deal with the minor offences affecting the train operations such as Alarm chain pulling, roof travel, touting, ticketless travel, unauthorized entry etc. (except Sabotage related offences under Sections 150 to 152) amending the Railways Act w.e.f. July 2004. The objective was to ensure that the State Police (Government Railway Police) get more man power and time to handle heinous offences such as Murder, Dacoity, Robbery, Rape etc. including Sabotage and Train Wrecking, under the provision of India Penal Code, the Railways Act and other laws of the land.

(b) There is no increase in the number of cases of dacoity and robbery over Indian Railways during the year 2005 as compared to the previous year 2004.

(c) To effectively supplement the efforts of the State Government in controlling crime on the Railways, Railways Protection Force is providing on an average of 1125 escort parties daily in affected trains in coordination with State Governments. For this an average of 3,397 staff are deployed. In addition, 646 stations, on an average, are being provided security by

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Railway Protection Force with deployment of aproximately 3,165 RPF personnel daily. These deployments are in addition to 2,118 escort parties of Government Railway Police (GRP) deployed on the trains, consisting of 4,872 personnel.

Pending rail projects in Tamil Nadu

2988. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of pending rail projects in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the reasons for delay in the implementation of these projects; and

(c) the time by which the projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) to (c) Pending projects are considered as those projects which have been included in the budget but clearances are awaited. No such project is pending in Tamil Nadu. However, 02 new line, 09 gauge conversion, 06 doubling and 02 electrification projects falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu are in progress. These projects are in various stages of progress and are being progressed as per availability of resources.

Vacancies in Railways in Madurai Division

2989. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the vacancies of different categories of employees in Southern Railway and especially in Madurai Division;

(b) whether due to a large number of vacancies, there is a possibility of train accidents; and

(c) if so, the action taken to fill up the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) The vacancies in Southern Railway & vacancies in Madurai Division are given category-wise as under:—

Southern Railway			Madurai Division		
Category	Category	Category	Category	Category	Category
'A' & 'B'	'C'	'D'	'A'& 'B'	'C'	'D'
44	7800	2081	3	761	358